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SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT NO. 71

TOPIC: Hungarian Infantry Regiment [] in Szentes.

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EVALUATION: [] 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED: [] 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT: 29 October 1950 to 23 June 1951

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1. The Infantry Regiment [] in Szentes (Y 7/0 32) was subordinate to an infantry division headquarters in Kiskunfelegyhaza (Y 7/0 03). []

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2. The regiment, including the regimental headquarters and the regimental units, was located in the former Cavalry Barracks situated about 2 km northwest of the bridge over the Kurcza River on the right side of the Szentes-Gsongrad (Y 7/0 22) road. The barracks installation included a two-story headquarters building, about 15 x 10 meters, with a flat roof, a single-story building containing officers, two two-story barracks buildings about 60 x 10 meters, a canteen building, an officers' mess, a dispensary and several workshops, garages and storehouses. One assembly shop and two workshops were under construction. The target range of the regiment was located northwest of the city, between the airfield and the Kurcza River, and covered an area of about 300 x 200 meters.
3. The 1st Bn was located in the New Barracks east of the city, on the south side of the road to Szarvas (Y 7/0 54). The installation consisted of a three-story barracks building, about 60 x 20 meters, with a flat roof, a two-story headquarters building, a two-story dispensary, two more single-story buildings and an ammunition depot.
4. The 2d Bn was located in Bokescsaba (R 16/0 91), in a barracks installation about 500 meters northeast of the railroad station, on the east side of a road with a streetcar route. In this installation were two three-story barracks buildings with flat roofs, a three-story headquarters building, a kitchen building and some depots, garages and stables. (2)
5. The 3d Bn was located on the southern perimeter of Hodmezoevasarhely (Y 7/0 39), in a barracks installation on the south side of the Szegec (Y 7/T 17) road, opposite a small railroad station. The installation contained a single-story headquarters building, three two-story barracks buildings, a kitchen and mess building, a dispensary and about ten sheds, storehouses, workshops, stables etc. (3)

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6. Personalities of the regiment included Major Istvan Toth, regimental commander; Lieutenant Kovacs (fnu), adjutant; Captain Geza Akocsi, leader of the headquarters personnel; Captain Steiner (fnu), political officer; Senior Lieutenant Kovacs (fnu), regimental Party secretary; Lieutenant Pikardi (fnu), Party secretary for the regimental units; Captain Gulyas (fnu), supply officer; Captain Fueleop (fnu), regimental artillery commander; Junior Lieutenant Jakab (fnu), D-officer; and Senior Lieutenant Cabor Bugyi, paymaster.
7. Headquarters units controlled by the regiment included:
- a. The regimental headquarters of about 200 men. Only a classified material office headed by an NCO, an operations office headed by a commissioned officer, a guard platoon of three light machine gun squads, and a telephone switchboard with 20 lines [redacted]
 - b. A signal battalion of two companies composed of the then regimental signal company and the three united battalion signal platoons on 5 January 1951. The 1st Co, which was the former regimental signal company [redacted] was commanded by Junior Lieutenant Janos Seboek. It was organized into the headquarters, the radio platoon of two 10-man squads, the messenger platoon of three 13-man squads, the telephone maintenance platoon of six 10-man squads, and the telephone switchboard platoon of four 10-man squads. The 2d Co, which consisted of the former battalion signal platoons [redacted] was commanded by Junior Lieutenant Istvan Nemeth and consisted of the radio platoon of 5 10-man squads, the telephone maintenance platoon of four 10-man squads, and the telephone switchboard platoon of two 10-man squads. The two companies wore dark-blue service color; the signal personnel wore lightning-bundle insignia and the drivers wore winged-wheel insignia.
 - c. An engineer company of about 40 men wearing dark-green service color and anchors with cables as branch-of-service insignia. It was organized into the headquarters and two platoons.
 - d. A horse-drawn battery of about 35 men wearing red service color and three balls topped with two crossed-gun barrels as branch-of-service insignia; it had 27 horses.
 - e. A mortar company of about 60 men wearing red service color and artillery insignia.
 - f. A reconnaissance company wearing green service color and crossed-rifle insignia. According to soldiers of this company, they had been trained at Tapolca (X 4/D 35).
 - g. An AT company numbering about 35 men prior to June 1951 and reinforced by the crews for three newly assigned guns at that time. The soldiers of the company wore red service color and artillery insignia.
 - h. An infantry company of about 120 men organized into the headquarters, three three-squad rifle platoons and one three-squad heavy machine gun platoon and wearing green service color with crossed-rifle insignia.
 - i. An AA machine gun company of 70 to 75 men, commanded by Lieutenant Pfilpf (fnu), and organized into the headquarters and three platoons. The soldiers of the company wore white-bordered red epaulets and artillery insignia. According to members of the company, an AA lookout, occupied by five soldiers of the company on 24 hour watch, was located about 5 km west of the Csongrad railroad station and about 200 meters north of the Csongrad-Kiskunfelegyhaza railroad line.
 - j. A submachine gun company of 60 to 70 ^{men} organized into the headquarters and three three-squad platoons and wearing green service color with crossed-rifle insignia.

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k. SP gun company assigned to the independent tank battalion located in Kiskunfolyahaza. (b)

25X1 8. The 1st Bn was commanded by a senior lieutenant, who was assigned to the unit in April 1951, and comprised 700 to 800 men according to the supply officer who was on a run to the HD ration supply center in Szeged. It was organized into the headquarters; the signal platoon, only up to 5 January 1951; an unidentified number of infantry companies; and an artillery company. No further units were known. The soldiers of the battalion wore green service color with crossed-rifle insignia.

25X1 9. The 2d Bn located in Bekescsaba was commanded by a senior lieutenant. Junior Lieutenant Lovase (fnu) was the D-officer of the battalion. The unit was organized into the headquarters; the signal platoon, only up to 5 January 1951; an undetermined number of infantry companies; an artillery company; and presumably a machine gun unit. 700 or 800 men were assigned to this battalion.

25X1 10. The 3d Bn in Hodmezoevasarhely was commanded by Senior Lieutenant Istvan Szabo. Personalities of the battalion included Junior Lieutenant Ferenc Biro, adjutant; Junior Lieutenant Gyula Buzas, D-officer; and Master Sergeant Remeth (fnu), supply officer. 600 to 700 men were assigned to the battalion. The battalion organization was similar to that of the 1st and 2d Bns. According to soldiers of the battalion, a guard detail of 70 to 80 men was permanently assigned to the Kunmadaras (R 43/I 88) internment camp.

11. The horse-drawn battery of the regiment was equipped with three 76.2-mm guns towed by six-horse teams. The mortar company had three mortars of an undetermined caliber mounted on two-wheel carts, which were towed by weapon carriers. The AT company had three 45-mm AT guns without muzzle brake, mounted on a split-trail gun carriage with pneumatic tire wheels and a shield 8-mm thick. In June 1951, three 57-mm AT guns with barrels 3 to 3.2 meters long, conic towards the muzzle mounting no muzzle brake, and equipped with recuperator mechanism and recoil brake were assigned to the company. The shells were about 70-cm long, including the 40-cm-long cartridge case. The company had three weapon carriers. The AT company was equipped with more than 13 AA machine guns of about 12-mm according to soldiers of the company. The soldiers carried pistols and submachine guns. (5) The 4th of the infantry company of the regiment carried rifles; the squad leaders had submachine guns. The company was also equipped with a Maxim heavy machine gun. The submachine gun company was equipped with submachine guns and two or three light machine guns. Two 45-mm AT guns, six or nine light or medium mortars of the artillery company, and six Maxim heavy machine guns were observed at the 1st Bn. It was undetermined whether the heavy machine guns belonged to a machine gun company or to the infantry companies. In addition to these heavy weapons, two 76.2-mm AT guns each were observed at the 2d and 3d Bns.

12. Each squad of the radio platoons was equipped with a model R/3 transmitter - receiver. Each squad of the telephone platoons was equipped with a model M/b2 telephone, nine drums with cable totaling 3.6 km, and construction equipment. The switching platoon of the 1st Co had one telephone switchboard with 20 lines and one with 10 lines, the 2d Co had only one switchboard with 10 lines. Each switchboard was equipped with two 110-volt anode batteries, one of which served as a spare.

13. The engineer company of the regiment was equipped with engineer equipment loaded on horse-drawn vehicles. According to soldiers of the company, 75-, 100- and 400-gram charges of model Tri-2 explosive were used at practices.

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- 25X1 14. The regimental headquarters was equipped with 43 weapon carriers [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted] (commander's car)
 25X1 [redacted] eight Csepel trucks [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted] and three sedans [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted] The 1st Bn was equipped with two weapon carriers [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted]
- 25X1 15. The majority of the headquarters personnel were green service color. Officers and NCOs wore crossed-rifle insignia on their collar patches. The Drivers of the headquarters wore brown service color and winged-wheel insignia. The individual officers of the headquarters, such as the regimental artillery commander, wore service color and insignia of their respective branches of service.
- 25X1 16. [redacted] received only 2-weeks' training as messenger at the signal company.
17. On 10 May 1951, the regiment moved to a camp near Kistelek (Y 7/0 00) for summer maneuvers. The camp, which was established between 10 and 15 May 1951, was located in a woods, about 5 km east of the town, and consisted of Russian-type 12-man tents for 12 and 40-man tents for offices and storage. Some brick buildings and wooden structures to house the officers' kitchen and to store guns, motor vehicles and ammunition were already available. The division commander and the Soviet military adviser to the army corps headquarters in Kecskemet (Y 6/N 95) took part in the inauguration held on 15 May 1951. Field exercises, on which no detailed information was available, were confined to company level up to 23 June 1951. The infantry Division headquarters from Kiskunfelegyhaza, with the units controlled by it, as well as the infantry regiments from Kiskunmajsa (Y 6/N 90) and Szeged, also arrived at the area around the camp on 10 May 1951. The division headquarters was located in a castle in the northern section of the woods.
18. According to its commander, the AAA company was to move to an artillery range, about 3 km distant from Nograd (Q 43/N 57), in June 1951 for two months' record firing there. He also stated that 1,500 men were at the range for record firing all the year round. It was undetermined whether the unit actually moved to the range, whose pinpoint location was not specified.
19. The meals were good and sufficient up to mid-January 1951, but steadily deteriorated since that time. During an indoctrination, a Party secretary, citing the reasons for this situation, stated that he preferred starving and stockpiling in peace-time to suffering want in the event of a war.
20. The regimental Party secretary headed the Party organization. Party secretaries also belonged to the regimental units and each battalion. The secretaries of the battalions were appointed by the regimental secretary; the regimental secretary and the secretary responsible for the regimental units were appointed by the Honved Minister. The secretaries kept the Party members' lists and held seminars and indoctrination courses to which only Party members were admitted. The Party days held once a week were attended by all soldiers.
- 25X1 21. On 6 January 1951, the morning gymnastics were inspected by three Soviet officers, who were accompanied by the deputy commanding general of the army corps [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted]
- [redacted] 22. According to officers of the regiment, a division was to be activated in Szentes in January and February 1951. At the same time, a three-story building, apparently a former hotel, was requisitioned and reconstructed by the armed forces. Offices were installed in the rear wing of the building. According to an officer talking to the Party secretary, a division headquarters was to be located in the building. [redacted] the

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regimental commander in the summer camp, the regimental units were not scheduled to return to Szentes, but were to be moved to Ekescsaba. In the fall of 1951, a division, commanded by the former regimental commander, was to be built around the infantry regiment; the battalions located in Ekescsaba and Hodmezoevasarhely were to be reorganized into regiments of this new division. The division headquarters located in Kiskunfelegyhaza was to become an army corps headquarters superior to the new division. He learned of this from talks of the regimental commander with other officers. Similar statements, which allegedly were also gathered from talks between officers were made by the driver of the commanding officer of the 2d Bn from Ekescsaba.

23. Besides the infantry regiment, a training school for horses, with 150 men commanded by a major and wearing yellow service color and crossed-sabre insignia, was located in the former Cavalry Barracks in Szentes. Three hundred horses were schooled daily. According to soldiers of the training school, the superior headquarters of the unit was located in Oerkeny (R 48/R 70). A driver [redacted] stated that a training school for horses was also located there. (7)
24. Up to 20 April 1951, the Hodmezoevasarhely recruiting office was located in a two-story building in the northwestern sector of the city and was commanded by a senior lieutenant wearing green service color and infantry insignia. The staff included another senior lieutenant, two or three lieutenants, two junior lieutenants, and four woman NCOs. The city of Szentes was allegedly located in the registration area under the jurisdiction of this office. A lieutenant and a Party secretary [redacted] toured villages in the entire southeastern section of the country as far as the border and, towards the north, almost as far as Debrecen (R 48/K 40).
- 25X1 [redacted] Comments.
- 25X1 (1) A previous report stated that the infantry regiment [redacted]
- 25X1 was subordinate to the infantry division in Kiskunfelegyhaza. [redacted]
- 25X1 (2) A previous report of May 1950 stated that a barracks installation occupied by an infantry unit was located near the railroad station.
- 25X1 (3) A previous report of January 1951 stated that the barracks installation on the Szeged road was occupied by an infantry unit. [redacted]
- 25X1 (4) The organization indicated in the present report largely conforms to a previous report [redacted] of October 1950, on the then 25th Inf Regt. The signal platoons of the battalions are believed to be assembled into an additional signal company controlled by the regiment for training purposes only as the SP gun companies are detached to the tank battalion.
- 25X1 [redacted] The relationship between the missions of the reconnaissance company, the submachine gun company, and the infantry company among the regimental units is still not clear.
- (5) No previous reports stated that Hungarian Army units were equipped with Soviet-type 57-mm AT guns. However, several reports received after the fall of 1950 stated that infantry units were equipped with Soviet-type model 38 12.7-mm AA machine guns.
- (6) The regiment seems to be only semi-motorized. The infantry companies and, partially, also the heavy weapons are still horse-drawn.
- (7) According to previous report, received as early as May 1950, a cavalry unit is located in Szentes. A remount depot is carried in Oerkeny. [redacted]

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